

10/15/69

Dear Dick, Gary and Paul,

It is unfortunately only too true that the Archives has made it impossible for me to keep any meaningful check list of what I ask for and do not get, as the enclosed letter to Rhoads protests. Dick and Paul, each in a different way, have recently called some of the material for which I renew my request to my attention. I had asked both the Archives and the Secret Service for it. The Secret Service told me it did not have it, which I do not believe. I believe there was some special kind of fingers-crossed formulation.

I will not be mailing these letters until Bud reads and approves them. I anticipate this will be Friday, when, unless the day changes by phone, we planned last week. He was then here, for the purpose of going over my entire file of Archives requests to decide which he will file suit on. He got through 1968 only. He took 1969 with him to study. If he approves, I will ask for all of these things again, in his presence, at the Archives. I will also ask for a list of what the Secret Service turned over. And in his presence I will ask for and examine the entire box of originals one part (which may be the entire thing) of which I saw last week.

I believe it is important that we make no mention of this at all until we get into court. It will then be more effective. I am telling no one but the three of you of it. It doesn't make too much difference what response they make, once we get into court, for no judge will ever believe that such records as these do not exist. Nor are they subject to any withholding, under guidelines, regulations of that kind, law or anything else.

As there are developments, I will keep you posted. If any of you has any suggestions, I would appreciate them in duplicate, so I can give Bud a copy as my lawyer. I have copied for him what Dick and Paul have suggested, but that takes time and costs the little bit that I cannot now afford.

When we finally agree on what we will sue for (and whether we include the Navy, which I have caught in either deliberate lies or violation of its own regulations), I will let you know that, too.

There is one document withheld on Ferris that I have, unofficially. It cannot be properly withheld, not even as an investigatory file, the reason given me in writing. I anticipate Bud will agree to sue for this, too.

Bud will want to keep this as simple as possible and to restrict it to what he regards as legally unobtainable. He will not duplicate what John is doing. I have told him generally what I am about but not specifically because he is expanding a dubious suit to include everything I have. And Washington is a much better forum.

Also enclosed is my letter to Rowley. You will not tell him what I did not tell Rhoads, of the suppression of the list in Exhibit 397. It should worry the man who was in charge of keeping the President alive.

Sincerely,